United Nations S/2000/899

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 September 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you regarding the follow-up to the briefing given by the Special Envoy of the Government of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, to you and Member States of the Security Council on 19 September 2000.

In this regard, it should be recalled that the Special Envoy conveyed the urgent need for achieving a comprehensive resolution of the problems concerning the situation in East Nusa Tenggara (West Timor) through the attainment of four main objectives, namely: (a) investigation of the Atambua incident of 6 September 2000 and bringing the perpetrators to justice; (b) disarming the militias; (c) reaching a lasting solution to the question of East Timorese refugees in East Nusa Tenggara; and (d) promoting reconciliation among the East Timorese of all political persuasions.

In the area of disarming the militias, Indonesia's efforts have resulted in the surrender of additional weapons by the East Timorese militias, besides the already confiscated 817 firearms, 19,926 pieces of ammunition and 66 grenades. On 24 September 2000, the Vice-President of Indonesia, the Coordinating Minister for Political, Social and Security Affairs, the Minister for Justice, the Commander of the Armed Forces, the Director of International Organizations from the Department of Foreign Affairs and other high-ranking Indonesian officials as well as nine personnel of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (6 military advisers and 3 political officers) witnessed the process. During this voluntary handover period, the weapons seized included 888 home-assembled weapons, 34 standard weapons, 4 grenades and 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

In the humanitarian field, my Government will continue to meet its responsibilities to render aid and assistance to the East Timorese refugees in their hour of need. At that same event, the Vice-President contributed rice as a token of Indonesia's concern for the plight of the refugees.

Bearing in mind the developments on the ground, the Government of Indonesia has decided to extend the period for the voluntary surrendering of weapons from 25 September to 27 September 2000 owing to the complexity of the process and to ensure an orderly, peaceful and complete transfer of these arms by the militias.

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Beyond that date, strict enforcement measures will be taken against those who are found to be illegally in possession of weapons.

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Makarim **Wibisono**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative